Stage 1 Activities

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is a State-Federal-local collaborative process which is building a framework to manage California's water system.

The CALFED plan has four distinct goals:

1. To restore the ecological health of the Bay-Delta, the largest estuary on the West Coast.
2. To improve water supply reliability for the State's growing cities and farms that use water from the Delta.
3. To protect the drinking water quality for the 22 million Californians who rely on Delta water for their supplies.
4. To provide long-term protection and maintenance for the 1,100 miles of levees that make up today's Delta.

% This plan provides a specific set of actions and proposed investments to meet those goals and to assure a balanced approach to implementation. Implementation will not occur overnight, but this document, and the final environmental documents and Record of Decision that will follow, will provide a long-awaited blueprint to solving long standing conflicts through a sustained effort by CALFED agencies and stakeholders.

Ecosystem Restoration Program

% Invest over $1 billion in Stage 1 through a combination of federal, state, and user funds in a comprehensive effort to restore the ecological health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem, including:

Restore habitat in the Delta, Suisun Bay and Marsh, and Yolo Bypass

Implement large-scale restoration projects on selected tributaries

Acquire streamflow in upstream areas through voluntary purchases

Improve fish passage through modification or removal of dams

Implement integrated flood management end ecosystem restoration

Propose a permanent source of revenue for ERP through future two-tiered water user fee.

Watersheds

% Invest $300 million in Stage 1 to promote locally-led watershed management activities for flood management, ecosystem restoration, water quality improvement, and water supply reliability

Water Supply Reliability

% Improve water supply reliability for agricultural and urban users in first four years of Stage 1 through the following:

Establish a regulatory baseline by delineating existing regulatory requirements and clarifying implementation of specific regulatory actions.

Establish an Environmental Water Account with an average of 380,000 acre feet of water set aside annually to provide additional water for fishery purposes beyond the regulatory baseline.

No reductions, beyond regulatory levels, in deliveries to state and federal project water users resulting from measures to protect fish.

Seek approval of joint point of diversion and share water from JPOD between the CVP and EWA.

Implement conjunctive management projects. conservation measures, and water transfers.

% Develop resources, including use of tools such as joint point of diversion, operational flexibility, interagency cooperation, the EWA, conservation, groundwater storage, and land retirement, in partnership with affected users and other stakeholders, to meet water supply targets.

% Develop a drought contingency plan, building upon the experiences of the drought water bank of 1991

Storage

% Develop approximately 250,000 acre feet of In-Delta storage to provide both fishery benefits and enhanced water project flexibility

- Expand CVP storage in Shasta Lake by approximately 300,000 acre feet.

- Expand Los Vaqueros Reservoir by up to 400,000 acre feet with Local partners, as part of a Bay Area water quality and water supply reliability initiative.

- Construct a bypass canal to the San Felipe Unit at the San Luis Reservoir

to enable more effective water supply operation of San Luis Reservoir, with potential effective storage capacity enhancement of up to 200,000 acre feet

% Develop locally managed and controlled groundwater and conjunctive use projects in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys with a total of 500,000 to 1 million acre feet of additional storage capacity

- Encourage basin-wide groundwater management planning, and condition future state funding for water programs on the development of local groundwater management plans.

- Join with local partners to complete evaluation of Sites Reservoir, proposed off-stream storage in the Sacramento Valley.

- Join with local partners to complete evaluation of additional storage in the upper San Joaquin River watershed either enlargement of Millerton Lake at Friant Dam or a functionally equivalent storage project in the region.

Conveyance

% Improve water conveyance facilities in the Delta in order to improve water supply reliability for in-Delta and export users; support continuous improvement in drinking water quality, and complement ecosystem restoration

South Delta Actions:

- Allow SWP facilities to increase pumping from the current limit between March 15 and Dec.15 of 6,680 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 5,500 cfs.

- Design and construct new fish screens at the Clifton Court Forebay and Tracy pumping plant facilities to allow the export facilities to pump at full capacity more regularly.

- Dredge and install operable barriers to improve water flows and water quality in the South Delta

- Design and construct floodway improvements on the lower San Joaquin River and lower Mokelumne River to provide conveyance, flood control and ecosystem benefits.

North Delta Actions:

- Evaluate and implement improved operational procedures for the Delta Cross Channel to address fishery and water quality concerns.

- Simultaneously evaluate a screened diversion facility on the Sacramento River at Hood of up to 4000 cfs.

Interties, System Flexibility:

- Evaluate and construct an intertie between the SWP and CVP facilities at or near Tracy.

- Evaluate and construct a bypass canal to the San Felipe Unit at the San Luis Reservoir, in order to address the 'low point" water levels in the reservoir.

- Explore cross-valley interconnections in the southern San Joaquin Valley for potential water exchanges of high-quality Sierra water for urban users.

Endangered Species Act Commitments

% To provide regulatory stability during the initial period of Stage 1. the CALFED agencies will provide a commitment, subject to legal requirements, that for the first four years of Stage 1, here will be no reductions, beyond existing regulatory levels in deliveries to state and federal project water users resulting from measures to protect fish

Water Use Efficiency and Conservation

- Build on the existing long-term efforts of the Agricultural Water Management Council and the Urban Water Conservation Council process, a multi-year collaborative stakeholder process.

- Use a competitive grant/loan incentive program to assure cost-effective investments in water use efficiency.

- Invest in the range of $3 to $4 billion by state, federal, and local cost-share partners in order to generate the following water savings:

1. Urban sector: 520,0001 to 688,000 acre feet.
2. Agricultural sector: 260 000 to 350,000 acre feet.
3. Water reclamation: 225 000 to 3101000 acre feet.

- Convene an independent review panel to help define appropriate measurement

as it relates to surface and groundwater usage, and introduce legislation in 2003 to require appropriate measurement of all water uses

Water Quality

% Address the drinking water quality concerns of the more than 22 million Californians who rely on Delta 'water through four broad categories of actions:

- Capture more drinking water during periods of high Delta water quality.
- Reduce contaminants and salinity that impair Delta water quality.
- Evaluate alternative approaches to drinking water treatment to address growing concerns over disinfection byproducts and salinity.
- Enable voluntary exchanges or purchases of high quality source waters for drinking water uses.

% Invest approximately $720 million in water quality programs, the major elements of which are:

- Develop a Bay Area Blending/Exchange Project that enables Bay Area water districts to work cooperatively to address water quality and supply reliability concerns
- Address drainage problems in the San Joaquin Valley: implement recommendations from the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program; support innovative drainage management programs such as the Grasslands Bypass Project; and support voluntary land retirement programs for drainage impaired lands, with local partnership.
- Implement source controls in the Delta and its tributaries.
- Support the ongoing efforts of the Delta Drinking Water Council.
- Facilitate water quality exchanges and similar programs to make high quality Sierra water available to uman areas.
- Invest in treatment technology demonstration projects.
- Control runoff into the California aqueduct.

Water Transfers

% In order to facilitate an efficient water market, CALFED will focus on the following:

% Increase the availability of existing facilities for water transfers through the enactment of legislation to clarify the state*s wheeling laws.

% Develop streamlined transfer approval procedures for certain kinds of transactions (intra-regional transfers, short-term transfers, dry-year transfers), and enact legislation as necessary.

% CALFED will also develop the ‘on-Tap” on-line water transfer information source, which will provide real-time information on the availability of transfer opportunities, as well as up-to-date information about ongoing transfer activity.

Levees

- Provide base level funding to help local reclamation districts reconstruct all Delta levees to a base level of protection.

- Enhance levee stability on levees that have particular importance in the system, with priority for life and personal property, water quality, agricultural production, and ecosystems protection.

- Develop Best Management Practices to control and reverse land subsidence on Delta islands, and work with local districts and landowners to implement cost effective measures.

- Refine the Delta Emergency Management Plan, and develop a Delta Risk Management Strategy thai identifies risks to Delta levees, evaluates consequences, and recommends actions by 2001.

Science

% Appoint a lead scientist and an expert science panel to better integrate objective scientific review into the CALFED program.

Governance

% Create a commission to oversee the long-term implementation of the CALFED preferred alternative.